AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for accurately measuring hearing loss, comprising the steps of:

selecting a series of audio tones within the normal range of hearing;

measuring a relative sensitivity of a test subject with respect to the ability to hear each of said audio tones, exclusive of the effects of tinnitus, said measuring step including selecting a plurality of audio tones, and determining for each said audio tone an intensity necessary for a test subject to hear said audio tone at a subjectively equal loudness level; and

determining a difference between said intensity measured for each of said audio tones and an intensity predicted by a standard loudness contour for each of said audio tones;

wherein said subjectively equal loudness level exceeds a noise level attributable to said tinnitus at a frequency of each said audio tone ~~determining a difference between said intensity measured for each of said tones and an intensity predicted by a standard loudness contour for each of said tones~~.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Currently amended) A method for accurately measuring hearing loss, comprising the steps of:

selecting a series of audio tones within the normal range of hearing;

measuring a relative sensitivity of a test subject with respect to the ability to hear each of said audio tones, exclusive of the effects of tinnitus said measuring step including determining for each said audio tone an intensity necessary for said test subject to hear said audio tones at a subjectively equal loudness level which exceeds a noise level attributable to said tinnitus at a frequency of each said audio tone; and

2

determining a difference between said intensity measured for each of said audio tones and an intensity predicted by a standard loudness contour for each of said audio tones.

5.   (Original) The method according to claim 4 further comprising the step of selecting said standard loudness contour to be at least one of a Fletcher-Munson Loudness Contour and a functional equivalent of a Fletcher-Munson Loudness Contour.

6.   (Original) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of measuring a noise level attributable to tinnitus.

7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Original) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of configuring at least one gain setting of a hearing aid to compensate for said hearing loss determined in said measuring step.

9.   (Currently amended)   A method for setting a frequency dependent audio gain of a hearing aid device for a person suffering from tinnitus, comprising the steps of:

measuring a test subject's loss of hearing attributable exclusively to dispersion in the hearing channel; and

setting for each of a plurality of frequency bands of said hearing aid device an audio gain level to compensate exclusively for said dispersion loss;

wherein said measuring step comprises selecting a plurality of audio tones, and determining for each said audio tone an intensity necessary for a test subject to hear said audio tone at a subjectively equal loudness level which exceeds a noise level attributable to tinnitus at a frequency of each said audio tone, and determining a difference between said intensity measured for each of said audio tones and an intensity predicted by a standard loudness contour for each of said audio tones.

10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Cancelled)

12.   (Cancelled)

3

13.   (Currently Amended) A method for setting a frequency dependent audio gain of a hearing aid device for a person suffering from tinnitus, comprising the steps of:

measuring a test subject's loss of hearing attributable exclusively to dispersion in the hearing channel, wherein said measuring a test subject's loss of hearing comprises selecting a series of audio tones within the normal range of hearing and measuring a relative sensitivity of said test subject with respect to the ability to hear each of said audio tones, exclusive of the effects tinnitus noise;

setting for each of a plurality of frequency bands of said hearing aid device an audio gain level to compensate exclusively for said dispersion loss;

determining for each audio tone an intensity necessary for said test subject to hear said audio tone at a subjectively equal loudness level which exceeds a noise level attributable to said tinnitus at a frequency of each said audio tone; and

determining a difference between said intensity measured for each of said audio tones and a predicted intensity indicated by a standard loudness contour for each of said audio tones.

14.   (Original) The method according to claim 13 further comprising the step of selecting said standard loudness contour to be a Fletcher-Munson Loudness Contour.

15.   (Currently amended) A method for providing high fidelity hearing restoration, comprising the steps of:

measuring a test subject's loss of hearing attributable exclusively to dispersion in the hearing channel;

setting for each of a plurality of frequency bands of a hearing aid device an audio gain level to compensate exclusively for said dispersion; and

wherein said measuring step comprises selecting a plurality of audio tones, and determining for each said audio tone an intensity necessary for a test subject to hear said audio tone at a subjectively equal loudness level which exceeds a noise level attributable to tinnitus at a frequency of each said audio tone, and determining a difference between said intensity measured for each of said audio tones and an intensity predicted by a standard loudness contour for each of said audio tones.

16.   (Cancelled)

4

17.   (Currently amended) A method for accurately measuring hearing loss, comprising the steps of:

selecting a series of audio frequencies within the normal range of hearing; and

measuring a test subject's loss of hearing at each frequency attributable exclusively to dispersion in the hearing channel;;

wherein said measuring step comprises selecting a plurality of audio tones, and determining for each said audio tone an intensity necessary for a test subject to hear said audio tone at a subjectively equal loudness level which exceeds a noise level attributable to tinnitus at a frequency of each said audio tone, and determining a difference between said intensity measured for each of said audio tones and an intensity predicted by a standard loudness contour for each of said audio tones.